



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

For Immediate Release
April 12, 2006

Contact: Kerry Krone
517-373-1758

New law includes Cassis amendment to encourage Wixom Ford Plant property redevelopment

LANSING—A bill that permits the city of Wixom to designate all or part of the Wixom Ford Plant property as a Renaissance Zone was signed into law Tuesday afternoon, said the bill's co-sponsor, Sen. Nancy Cassis.

Public Act 116 of 2006 enables new Renaissance Zones to be established in several parts of the state. Cassis sponsored an amendment to the bill that gives local officials in Wixom the option of using tax breaks to spur redevelopment. In January, Ford announced it would cease production at the 49-year-old Wixom assembly plant by mid-2007.

"It is never easy to get over a plant closure, which can be devastating for the men and women who lose their jobs, as well as their families, but which also affects the entire community," said Cassis, R-Novi, and chair of the Senate Finance Committee. "With the ability to establish a Renaissance Zone, Wixom can consider using this tool to encourage new economic growth and stability in the city."

Renaissance Zones stimulate economic activity in a region by temporarily eliminating most state and local taxes.

"A substantial reduction in taxes can be a great boost for local businesses and the economy," said Cassis. "The residents of Wixom should be encouraged that their city could now offer this incentive to create jobs."

"In addition, new opportunities will be available for workers and businesses. The state can partner with Ford for worker retraining, redevelopment of the 318-acre site, and working with city officials to make the site viable for future redevelopment and employment."

Cassis said her office has developed a brochure to assist constituents who have lost their jobs due to plant closings or other circumstances. The *Job Resource Guide* provides resources for job seekers and information on retraining to help constituents find meaningful training in their careers or perhaps a new career path. For a copy of the brochure, contact Cassis' office at 1-888-38-NANCY or go to www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis and click on Senator Cassis' Job Resource Guide.

###